



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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*For Immediate Release*

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## Park Authority Announces 2013 Volunteer Service Award Recipients

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board announced the recipients of the 2013 Elly Doyle Park Service Awards at their regular board meeting of July 24, 2013. These awards and several others will be presented on November 22, 2013, at the annual volunteer service awards ceremony slated for the Waterford in Fairfax, Va.

This year's recipients include Howard Albers, Sarah Kirk, and Jim Hickey. Albers has volunteered with the Park Foundation since 2011 and has been instrumental in the application for and receipt of more than \$600,000 in grants and awards. Kirk is the founder and president of Turner Farm Events, a non-profit organization set up to support activities at The Turner Farm in Great Falls. This organization sponsors horse shows and other fundraising activities to support the ongoing maintenance and operational needs at the equestrian site. Hickey embodies the spirit of volunteerism in all that he does at Lake Accotink Park and has been a park volunteer for more than 17 years. He is the well-known emcee for the Cardboard Boat Regatta and local concerts and a formative figure with the Friends of Lake Accotink Park.

The Park Board also approved the following Elly Doyle Special Recognition Awards:

- Lassine Doumbia, a volunteer since 2010 at Ossian Hall Park who ensures that the community concert series runs smoothly.
- Casto DeBiasi, an avid golfer at age 92 and a volunteer at Twin Lakes Golf Course for the past 23 years as a marshal, starter, tee coordinator and cart man.
- The Friends of Green Spring Gardens Board of Directors, decision-makers and stewards who have opened the garden's programs to children, taking seriously the business of Friend-raising.
- Great Falls Trail Blazers for 14 years of service during which they coordinated volunteer labor, improved and expanded trails, assisted with trail composition policy revisions and preservation of historic Georgetown Pike.
- Lynn Mulvey-McFerron who served as assistant coach and logistician for the championship-Envirothon Team at Hidden Pond Nature Center.

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- Huntley Meadows volunteer Melina Tye who created and organized the Resource Management Volunteers focusing on natural resource protection and stewardship activities.

Two student honorees were also selected. These include:

- Monica Banghart, a Hidden Pond Nature Center volunteer since 2009 who has contributed more than 1,000 hours and serves as a mentor, volunteer animal care and program leader.
- Nine year old Rohil Bhinge whose fundraising efforts on behalf of Chessies Big Backyard fully-accessible playground raised \$3,350.00.

The Elly Doyle Park Service Award was established in 1988 in recognition of Ellamae Doyle's many years of service and accomplishment as a member and chairman of the Park Authority Board. These awards recognize volunteers who make outstanding contributions of time and talent to the Fairfax County park system. For more information contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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